

THE SMILE

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY (DAY 1)

ABE NOBLE (early 20's) sits and eats breakfast with his PARENTS (mid 50's). He finishes up, fixes his tie, puts on his suit jacket and kisses his mother on the cheek.

EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Abe exits his parent's house and plugs into his iPod to drown out the boredom.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Abe walks down the street to his work. He goes this way every day, passing people without as much as a glance. Tunnel vision.

INT. OFFICE - LATER

Abe sits at his booth checking his Facebook page. His FEMALE SUPERVISOR (mid 40's) stands over him. She frowns.

SUPERVISOR

Let's get some work done shall we,
Noble?

Abe freezes. Caught out.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY (DAY 2)

As before. It's raining. Abe puts his jacket hood up.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

As before, Abe walks down the street. Today though something makes him do a double take.

In the distance he sees high heels and long legs coming towards him.

He slowly lifts his head up to reveal a STUNNING LADY (late 20's) in business attire and long matching jacket, under an umbrella. She walks past without noticing Abe.

Abe stops in his tracks. He takes off his hood and watches her walk off in the distance.

INT. BAR - LATER

Abe sits in a bar with his worldly but penniless best friend LAMMY (early 20's), who looks like he's just got out of bed. Which he probably has.

LAMMY

So, go on then, describe her.

ABE

It's difficult. It was raining.

LAMMY

You can do better than that! Tall or short, fat or thin?

(beat)

Tits or ass?

ABE

Tall. Though the heels could have made her look taller. Slim. Tits and arse.

LAMMY

You got a glimpse of 'em both?

ABE

What? No. She was wearing a jacket... It was difficult to tell... I wasn't really looking that hard.

LAMMY

Course you weren't.

(beat)

Well it doesn't count if you haven't had a proper look at her assets. She could have a fat arse and no tits.

ABE

I'm pretty sure she didn't.

LAMMY

You need to be sure. Before you take it to the next level.

ABE

The next level? We're not in a computer game.

(beat)

Have you just got out of bed?

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Lammy drives Abe back to his office in an old and rusty Fiat Panda.

ABE (looking round the car)
How you running this thing if you
haven't a job?

(off Lammy's silence)
Thought you said you had no money after
your travels. There's no way I could
afford even this pile of junk.

LAMMY
It really doesn't cost that much to run.
(beat)
You should have gone with me, man.
Travelling the world. Better than your
stinking corporate life. See the world.
Experience it.

Lammy turns the car into Abe's office.

LAMMY (CONT'D)
Vietnam was truly the best. The new
Thailand, they say.

Abe knows he should have.

INT. OFFICE - LATER

Abe looks round over his shoulder. No one there. He casually searches Trip Advisor for hotels in Vietnam.

EXT. STREET - DAY (DAY 3)

As before, Abe heads down the street.

And here she comes. This time she's wearing a figure hugging power suit. She looks stunning. Abe's in love.

As she passes him she flicks her hair and takes a quick glance in Abe's direction. He notices she's on the phone. His eyes follow her. And that ass.

AN OLDER WOMAN (late 60's), walking nearby, tuts at Abe in a disapproving fashion. Abe looks startled and embarrassed.

INT. OFFICE TOILETS - LATER

Abe checks the cubicles. He's alone. He calls Lammy on his mobile.

INT. OFFICE TOILETS - SAME / INT. LAMMY'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Abe on the right, Lammy on the left, who's sitting on the toilet in his dressing gown. They are talking to each other on their mobiles.

LAMMY

So? Did you get a good glimpse?

ABE

Yeah, at both. Very nice.

LAMMY

Score!

Silence. Lammy grabs some toilet roll.

ABE

So what now?

LAMMY

You gotta smile at her. Remember, the next level.

ABE

And what if she doesn't.

LAMMY

Walk a different way to work. Leave a bit earlier. I don't know. What have you got to lose?

ABE

My dignity, for starters!

LAMMY

Oh, now that's not true. You lost that when you took that job of yours.

(beat)

What's it you do again? Tea boy?

ABE (sighing)
Admin assistant.

LAMMY (laughing)
That's it! And what did you study again?
Interdisciplinary Science? What the hell
is that anyway?

ABE
Can we get back to the main subject.

LAMMY
If we really must.
(beat)
Look, just be yourself. If she's got any
sense she'll respond back. Now if you'll
excuse me. I'm trying to go for a dump.

EXT. STREET - DAY (DAY 4)

As before.

And here she comes, like a goddess floating on air. He removes his iPod and takes a deep breath.

Everything's in slow motion for him. He smiles ... and to his huge relief, and surprise, she smiles right back.

And what a smile it is. To him it's everything. He's ecstatic, like he's just scored a goal for Brazil. Thankfully, no-one else is around to see.

INT. BAR - LATER

ABE
What I don't understand is, where she's
come from all of a sudden. It's like,
from nowhere.

LAMMY (sarcastically)
Like an angel.

ABE
Yeah, like a...

Abe realises. Lammy sips his drink.

LAMMY

Man, it was so cool this morning. Spent time chatting to some guys I met, you know - while I was in Vietnam - on Google Hangout.

ABE

Cool.

LAMMY

Indeedy. One of them, Magda, from Austria I think. She gave me this blow job on the beach.

(beat, Lammy sighs in satisfaction)
The sun was setting. No-one else around. The waves were lapping at the sand, just as she was lapping at my... well, let me tell you, it was pretty romantic.

ABE

Romantic? That's not the first word I'd use...

LAMMY (to himself mostly)

Man, she was fit.

(beat)

Mind you, she's put on a few pounds since then.

(to Abe)

Bet that sort of thing doesn't happen in corporate land? No receptionists knocking you off after a pina colada next to a sunkist photocopier.

Abe wants to change lanes.

ABE

So, what do I do now?

LAMMY

About what?

ABE

You know. This woman.

LAMMY

Ah, the dirty slut in the power suit.

(beat)

Listen, just go with your instincts.

(off Abe's silence)
 OK, well, if you had some you could.

ABE (sarcastically)
 Thanks. That's useful.

Lammy leans forward and looks at Abe intently. Finally, some useful words of wisdom. This is what Abe needs.

LAMMY
 Just say to her: "Hi, my name's Abe. You look hot. Fancy a drink tonight?"

Silence as Abe takes this in.

ABE
 That's it? That's your advice?
 (off Lammy's silence)
 And you'd do the same thing would you?

LAMMY (rather unconvincingly)
 Sure.

(beat)
 So, you payin' for these drinks?

INT. BATHROOM (DAY 5)

Abe practices smiling in the mirror. He's imagining he's face to face with the mysterious lady. He repeats the words "Hi, I'm Abe" over and over.

There's a knock on the bathroom door.

ABE'S MOTHER (O.S)
 You alright in there?

Abe freezes.

ABE (awkwardly)
 Yeah. Fine.

EXT. HOUSE - LATER

Abe exits his front door. His mother appears behind him with a lunch box.

ABE'S MOTHER
 Darling, are you forgetting something?

Abe turns, snatches the lunch box and disappears, leaving his mother standing with a look of surprise.

ABE'S MOTHER
(annoyed in a motherly way)
Thanks!?

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

As before. Abe arrives at the place he normally sees the mysterious lady. But this time she's not here.

A bitter blow.

He hangs back for a bit, looks at his watch. Various people walk by, none of them her. He reluctantly decides to give up and continue his walk to work.

INT. OFFICE - LATER

Abe sits at his computer screen looking sorry for himself, plugged into his iPod.

A COLLEAGUE opposite calls over to Abe.

COLLEAGUE
You heard the rumour too?

Abe takes one ear out.

ABE
What?

COLLEAGUE (repeats, more slowly)
Have you heard the rumour?

ABE
No. What rumour?

Abe's colleague smiles knowingly.

COLLEAGUE
We're getting a new supervisor.

ABE (not interested)
Really? No. Not heard that one.

COLLEAGUE (taps his nose)

Power breakfasts.

ABE

Pardon me?

COLLEAGUE

They've been having power breakfasts these past few days. It's all been a bit... you know...

(colleague winks at Abe)

Hush hush.

ABE

I see.

COLLEAGUE

They say she's a tyrant. Not to be messed with.

(leans forwards and whispers)

They say she eats men for breakfast.

(off Abe's silence)

What do you think?

ABE (bored)

I think we should wait and see.

Abe goes back to his computer screen, iPod back in.

There's a commotion behind Abe, but he doesn't hear.

SUPERVISOR

Listen up everybody. Can you all gather round, please. I have an important announcement to make.

More commotion. Abe continues regardless.

SUPERVISOR (stern voice, looking at Abe's back)

And I do mean everybody.

Abe is nudged. He turns. And to his shock, surprise and horror he comes face to face with mysterious lady. She's standing next to the supervisor, smiling nervously at everyone facing in her direction. Abe looks stunned.

A hush falls.

SUPERVISOR

OK. Well. I have some sad news for you all. As some of you already know, I'm going to be leaving you for pastures new. But I would like to give a very warm welcome to your new team leader. Her name's Cecilia.

(turns to Cecilia)

Welcome Cecilia!

The supervisor leads the clapping that ensues. Cecilia looks around the room, smiling and thanking everyone. As she does she comes face to face with Abe. Their eyes meet and through his shock, Abe manages a smile, and we freeze on his face.

ABE (V.O)

It's funny how the small things in life can make the biggest impact. For me, that one smile changed everything.

FADE OUT

THE END